<u>Amendment to the Claims</u>:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended)   A method comprising:

determining, at a first server, to which one of N mirrored servers a request from a client should be routed based at least in part on an address indicating the client and a route to the client and on the quality of service between at least some of the N mirrored servers to the client; ~~and~~

determining to route requests from other clients associated with the address to the one of the N mirrored servers; <u>and</u>

<u>determining if other clients associated with the address and routed to the one of the N mirrored servers experience different connection performance than the client, and if so, isolating the ones of the clients experiencing the different connection performance and directing the ones of the clients to another one of the N mirrored servers.</u>

2. (original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising using an end to end connection speed between each of the at least some of the N mirrored servers and the client to define the quality of service between the at least some of the N mirrored servers to the client.

3. (original)   The method of claim 1 in which a connection metric value between each of the at least some of the N mirrored servers and the client defines the quality of service between each of the at least some of the N mirrored servers to the client.

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4. (original) The method of claim 3 in which the connection metric value includes a round-trip time value.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the address includes an Internet Protocol address.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the address includes an Internet Protocol address on a network using classless inter-domain routing.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the part of the address indicating a route to the client is not identifiable by inspection of the address.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising routing the request to the one of the N mirrored servers providing the fastest connection speed between the client and any of the at least some of the N mirrored servers.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining if the one of the N mirrored servers can handle the load routed to it, and if not, isolating a group of clients associated with the address and routed to the mirrored server by redirecting the group of clients associated with the address and connected to the mirrored server to another one of the N mirrored servers.

10. (cancelled)

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11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1.-10 further comprising associating the address associated with the ones of the clients with the another one of the N mirrored servers and routing requests from clients associated with the address to the another one of the N mirrored servers.

12. (currently amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

determine, at a first server, to which one of N mirrored servers a request from a client should be routed based at least in part on an address indicating the client and a route to the client and on the quality of service between at least some of the N mirrored servers to the client; and

determine to route requests from other clients associated with the address to the one of the N mirrored servers; and

determine if other clients associated with the address and routed to the one of the N mirrored servers experience different connection performance than the client, and if so, to isolate the ones of the clients experiencing the different connection performance and routing the ones of the clients to another one of the N mirrored servers.

13. (original) The article of claim 12 further causing a machine to use an end to end connection speed between each of the at least some of the N mirrored servers and the client to define the quality of service between the at least some of the N mirrored servers to the client.

14. (original) The article of claim 12 in which a connection metric value between each of the at least some of the

N mirrored servers and the client defines the quality of service between each of the at least some of the N mirrored servers to the client.

15. (original) The article of claim 12 in which the connection metric value includes a round-trip time value.

16. (original) The article of claim 12 in which the address includes an Internet Protocol address.

17. (original) The article of claim 12 in which address includes an Internet Protocol address on a network using classless inter-domain routing.

18. (original) The article of claim 12 in which the part of the address indicating a route to the client is not identifiable by inspection of the address.

19. (original) The article of claim 12 further causing a machine to route the request to the one of the N mirrored servers providing the fastest connection speed between the client any of the at least some of the N mirrored servers.

20. (orginal) The article of claim 12 further causing a machine to determine if the one of the N mirrored servers can handle the load routed to it, and if not, to isolate a group of clients associated with the address and routed to the mirrored server by redirecting the group of clients associated with the address identifier and connected to the mirrored server to another one of the N mirrored servers.

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21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended)   The article of claim 12 ~~21~~ further causing a machine to associate the address associated with the ones of the clients with the another one of the N mirrored servers and to route requests from clients associated with the address to the another one of the N mirrored servers.

23-38. (cancelled)

39. (currently amended)   An article comprising a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:
    group clients associated with the same address having a topologically-significant segment and a topologically-insignificant segment into clusters; ~~and~~
    route requests from clients in a cluster to the same one server included in the group of N mirrored servers<u>;</u>
    <u>detect a performance difference between two or more clients grouped in the cluster;</u>
    <u>isolate the ones of the clients in the cluster experiencing the performance difference; and</u>
    <u>group the ones of the clients into another cluster</u>.

40. (original) The article of claim 39 in which the requests are routed to the one of the N mirrored servers based on quality of service between at least some of the clients and at least some of the N mirrored servers.

41. (cancelled)

42. (original) The article of claim 39 in which the topologically-significant segment of the address and the topologically-insignificant segment of the address cannot be identified by inspecting the address in binary form.

43. (original) The article of claim 39 in which the topologically-significant segment of the address includes information on a route to a client and the topologically-insignificant segment of the address includes information on the client.

44. (original) The article of claim 39 further causing a computer to determine if a server in the group of N mirrored servers can handle the load routed to it, and if not, isolate a group of clients connected to the server and direct the group of clients to another server in the group of N mirrored servers.

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